

## SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY, October 12, 2021

The regular meeting for the Monson Select Board convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room in the Town Office Building at 110 Main Street. In attendance were Dr. Richard M. Smith, Patricia A. Oney, Mary K. Hull, Town Administrator Jennifer L. Wolowicz, and the media.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **Public Comment:**

Robert Kaddy, Butler Road, approached the Select Board and noted he saw on the agenda under New Business the bylaw request for light pollution by Roxanne Gunther. Mr. Kaddy explained back on January 24, 2017, he worked on and wrote a bylaw on outdoor residential lighting. Mr. Kaddy had a lot of documentation with him from different communities and information from the Attorney General's Office, etc. that he gave to Ms. Gunther.

Mr. Kaddy said the second thing he wanted to speak about is regarding another item on the agenda, the Code of Conduct policy, and said he was the recipient of some verbal abuse in both tone and content today by a town official. Mr. Kaddy said he will send a letter to the Select Board and HR and noted this has also happened at Town Meeting in the past. He feels it can be handled very informally and hopes this puts a stop to this type of behavior.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **FY22 Select Board/Town Administrator Goals Discussion – Administrator Wolowicz:**

Dr. Smith explained Ms. Wolowicz compiled all the goals that have been discussed recently.

Ms. Wolowicz said she sent the Select Board the final draft, and explained the hybrid zoom meeting policy is in the process, having been sent to Town Counsel, to do a policy for us that all boards and committees could use to stay consistent so all residents will know the policies and how they work.

Dr. Smith asked if we have the technology available for all the different boards and committees to do that.

Ms. Wolowicz responded the town has a zoom account.

Dr. Smith said we would need somebody here with the computer during the meeting.

Ms. Wolowicz noted they could have either a staff person, as all the boards and committees have staff that support them, or a board or committee member could volunteer to do it.

Ms. Wolowicz noted they are also working on the policy for the Gifts to the Town Account, and consolidating some duplicate services within the town.

Ms. Oney made a motion to approve the goals as presented. Ms. Hull seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

**Resident Concerns – Building, Zoning & Health Department Responses, Shirley Lamb & Kris Converse:**

Ms. Lamb, Cedar Swamp Road, approached the Select Board followed by her fiancé, Mr. Converse who arrived a few minutes later.

Ms. Lamb explained she has tried to address issues in her neighborhood on prior occasions. She has emails, phone calls, and discussions with the Zoning, Board of Health, and the Building Department since the Building Inspector covers many of the issues she is dealing with. Ms. Lamb said she hasn't received any real responses from them and it's been over a year. This regards animal waste and trash that is ending up on her property. Ms. Lamb said she also has pictures and videos.

Ms. Lamb said she bought the house knowing there were animals next door, but there weren't nearly as many as there are now with hundreds and hundreds of birds. Ms. Lamb explained the odor, which is very offensive, is caused by there not being enough land for the number of animals there are with not enough housing for them and there are goats in the front yard near the road. Currently the cows are gone, but Ms. Lamb said she was told they would be getting more. They have 4.03 acres, and she feels this isn't a farm.

Ms. Lamb said she also doesn't believe they should be zoned for dirt bikes. There are five dirt bikes at a time that make a lot of noise and they end up riding on her property damaging it. Ms. Lamb said she put up a very expensive 400-foot-long fence to end this.

Dr. Smith clarified she has a zoning issue and a Board of Health issue that aren't being responded to.

Ms. Lamb said she was told by Zoning there is a noise ordinance, but nothing can be done about it because they don't have the equipment or device. Ms. Lamb wondered how we can have a noise ordinance and not have the equipment to follow up with it.

Ms. Lamb stated she has eight instances of false police reports that were filed against them, by these neighbors.

Ms. Lamb said she has requested twice meetings with Ms. Wolowicz and Chief Kozloski and was denied both times. Ms. Lamb said she has done nothing wrong, and they have followed all the protocols the best they can.

Dr. Smith asked that we contact the Board of Health to investigate the claims, or to remind them of the claims. Dr. Smith explained with zoning, Mr. Tirone is now gone.

Ms. Wolowicz noted this will have to be on the back burner for now until Mr. Tirone is replaced. We have one person to cover this position but all he is doing right now are the permits due to the limited time.

Town Counsel Ryan O'Hara from Bacon Wilson introduced himself and said he was asked to attend tonight's meeting to speak to this issue and issues in general. He said he is here to clarify what the Select Board's role is and what the town's position is. Attorney O'Hara said the Select Board is not here to be final arbitrators on all the feuding going on in town. The Board of Health and Zoning Enforcement have

very specific statutory procedures which can be followed to seek enforcement, and if you don't like how the town is responding, you can follow those procedures straight on up. If you don't like the determination from Zoning Enforcement Officer, you can appeal to the ZBA. It's not meetings with the Select Board, the Town Administrator, or with the Chief of Police. It's following the procedures that Mass. Law lays out to have those things enforced. That goes for Board of Health issues and enforcement as well.

Attorney O'Hara said from what he is hearing here tonight, everything seems to be civil claims that they could settle in court and the town is not that court of law.

Ms. Lamb said she feels not everyone is being treated the same when some people get to meet with the Police Chief and Town Administrator and others get denied that request.

Ms. Wolowicz stated she has never had a meeting with any of the parties.

Ms. Lamb said the email stated she was going to meet with the other party involved.

Mr. O'Hara said he feels it's safe to say the town won't be having any meetings on this going forward.

Ms. Lamb said she tried to follow the steps like she was supposed to, and the departments failed.

Ms. Wolowicz asked Ms. Lamb when the Zoning Enforcement Officer told her this was not fitting her resolution, did she take it to the next step and go to the ZBA.

Ms. Lamb responded she did not.

Ms. Hull said she feels residents are running into this with all the departments, and the recommendation to make everything all the same is something they are working on and she feels the first priority should be making all the meetings with the same format so everything is easier and friendlier, and to be able to find what every department does saying here is what we do and why you would come to us, because it's not clear.

Dr. Smith clarified the next step for Ms. Lamb is to contact the ZBA, and Ms. Wolowicz will contact the Board of Health, and reach out to Health Agent Ms. McCool.

Attorney Stanley Komack from Longmeadow approached the Select Board representing the Kierklas of 218 Cedar Swamp Road. Attorney Komack stated his clients deny the allegations against them and noted the town took the Kierklas to court a couple of years ago when an agreement was made regarding the animals. Attorney Komack said nothing has happened in the two years the agreement has been enforced.

Dr. Smith noted we aren't addressing that right now.

#### **Fence Discussion at 218 Cedar Swamp Road from June & November 2019 – Attorney O'Hara, Bacon/Wilson:**

Attorney O'Hara gave a recap on the fence discussion from June and November 2019 noting it was a dangerous dog hearing, a petition brought by a different abutter, per Mass. State law. The public hearing was held by the Select Board with both sides presenting evidence, and the Board at that time made the decision to determine the dog as dangerous and required the dog owners to install a fence

within a certain amount of time to contain the dog. The fence was not timely installed, and a follow-up hearing was held. It was noted by the dog owners the fence was on back-order, and then the fence company couldn't install it due to the ground being frozen, etc., and then the pandemic hit.

Attorney O'Hara explained the order was appealed in the district court where it was determined it was a valid judgment that can't be changed. The question that he said has come up recently is if the Board is inclined to enforce that order, what options are out there. As he views it, it puts the town in the difficult position of possibly waiving these orders. The statute states basically if there is a violation of an order like that, he feels if the Board was to explore acting on that it would have to at some point find there was in fact a violation of this order and check on the status of where this stands and how to reach a resolution through further proceedings here or going to court, or not take any further action.

Ms. Wolowicz said the reason this is on the agenda is because a resident asked for an update on what is happening.

Dr. Smith said he was curious as to the status of the fence that was promised a couple of years ago.

Attorney Komack approached the Select Board and noted his client did put up 80 feet of the fence at a cost of \$5,000. The total job will cost \$15,000 and could possibly be a hardship. The fence stops at a tree on the borderline and noted this tree needs to be cut down due to the roots being in the way of continuing with the fence. The neighbors, the Krutovs, have stated they are not going to take the tree down. Attorney Komack feels due to this there needs to be a discussion on how the fence is going to continue. Attorney Komack stated there have been no problems with the dog in the last year and a half, but his clients want to continue with the solid fence they are installing.

Attorney O'Hara explained if the tree is on the property line and both parties have equal ownership, Mass. laws require both parties signing off on it, which is a genuine issue if one party were to say no on taking the tree down. It would have to be resolved.

Ms. Oney noted the order is in place for the construction of 250 feet of fence that's been in place for well over two years and hasn't happened.

Attorney Komack said his clients spoke with Mr. Brassard at the time the 80 feet of fence was installed, and they asked him to intervene with the neighbors who said they wouldn't take the tree down. His client spoke with Mr. Brassard who said he didn't want to hear any more about the fence.

Ms. Oney said she has seen fences with a tree in the middle, with the fence going up to the tree on one side and then continuing down on the other side of the tree.

Attorney Komack said their concern was spending this type of money on putting up a nice fence and they didn't want to go around a tree where the roots could destroy a lot of it. They are willing to take this to court to get the tree down.

Dr. Smith noted they came in later in 2019 for an update because there was an issue with the 250 feet of fence, and at the time they were told to put in the 80 feet now and the Board gave them until June 1<sup>st</sup> to install the remainder of the fence, and that's where it was last left.

Attorney Komack said he will make sure in working with his client that it gets addressed promptly and through the correct procedures.

Ms. Oney stated it concerns her very much that there was an order in place from this Board and it didn't get followed and his client never got in touch with the Board or the Town Administrator to let them know the reasons why the rest of the fencing wasn't put in place by June 1, 2019.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Approve the minutes of September 28, 2021 – Open Session:**

Ms. Oney made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for September 28, 2021 – open session. Ms. Hull seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

##### **Bylaw Request, Fence & Light Pollution – Roxanne Gunther:**

Roxanne Gunther, 69 May Hill Road, approached the Select Board and said she would like the Board to put to the Bylaw Committee a request to try to make some bylaws concerning fences and light pollutions. Ms. Gunther said she has brought up fence issues many times and the need for two fence viewers per State law.

Ms. Gunther explained her neighbors installed their fence on her property. Ms. Gunther noted she feels we need a fence bylaw that states what type of fence you can have, how high it can be, and the need for locating just where property lines are prior to installing a fence. Ms. Gunther also feels you should have to take out a permit for fences.

Ms. Wolowicz noted our lighting bylaw is currently being reviewed by Town Counsel.

Ms. Oney said we really need to revamp the entire zoning and general bylaws, and said she is willing to assist with it.

Ms. Hull said she will help as well.

Town Clerk Mary Watson approached the Select Board and asked why it isn't sufficient to just follow the State law on fences.

Ms. Oney said because the State law isn't answering all of Ms. Gunther's questions.

Ms. Watson said she was on the Bylaw Committee and had to step down when she became Town Clerk and noted she would love to see the bylaws revamped as there needs to be some clarity. Ms. Watson said the Bylaw Committee didn't have a charge and asked the Select Board at that time what their charge was and was told it was to help the public to design bylaws that fit the town. Ms. Watson feels if there is a state bylaw in place she doesn't see why the town can't follow that.

Ms. Gunther said the issue is the State's fence bylaw says no fence higher than 6 feet, but our building code said you can install a fence up to 7 feet with a variance/special permit approved by the ZBA, so she doesn't feel it's clear.

Ms. Watson also recommends looking at other towns and bringing that forward to the Bylaw Committee as well to gear it toward Monson.

Mr. Kaddy reapproached the Board and said in 2007 he wrote a bylaw on imminent domain, so the town couldn't take property by imminent domain and then turn around and sell it to a private developer to increase the tax base. Mr. Kaddy feels this bylaw also needs to be looked at since the town has a piece of property where the South Main Street School was. The land was taken by imminent domain years ago for the school. It has since been torn down and Mr. Kaddy said he believes the heirs to that property can't be located. He feels that property should go back to the estate of the family and feels due to our bylaw it can't be sold to a private developer.

Ms. Oney made a motion to forward the fence issue to the Bylaw Committee asking them to draft up a bylaw on this. Ms. Hull seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED. This VOTE was amended at the October 26, 2021 meeting voting to send the fence issue to the Planning Board.

It was also agreed to add updating all the bylaws to the Select Board and Town Administrator's list of goals.

#### **Fence Viewer Appointment – Director Goodrich:**

This was passed over.

#### **FY 22 Financial Update – Director Farnum:**

Finance Director Jamie Farnum approached the Select Board and explained the Board have packets before them she prepared, as attached. Ms. Farnum explained the FY22 budget update noting the Snow & Ice account closed out at the end of FY21 at \$260,935.11. The amount appropriated was \$200,000 so this was over budget by \$60,935.11 which is average.

Ms. Farnum went over the appropriation deficits which are accounts at the end of the fiscal year that were in deficit, which will get raised on the tax rate recap. Ms. Farnum explained the estimated local receipts noting this is how the FY21 budget was built, and the actual is how we closed out at the end of the FY21. The estimate was \$1.4 million, and we came in at \$2.18 million. A lot of that came from the cannabis host agreement revenue, and this was a big jump from last year. Ms. Farnum explained the motor vehicle excise is calculated at a 3-, 5- and 10-year estimate based off previous numbers we committed, and in FY22 it is estimated at around \$1.2 million.

Dr. Smith noted there is a huge increase in licenses and permits vs. actual.

Ms. Farnum said there was a big jump there and feels it has to do with building permits, etc. being higher than usual.

Dr. Smith said he appreciates all her work on this and added it's good to see we are okay.

Ms. Hull told Ms. Farnum her work is amazing.

Ms. Wolowicz agreed she is doing a great job and she and Ms. Farnum are meeting with the department heads to review FY22 budgets and to think about things they might want to put on there for FY23.

**2020 Federal Census & Reprecincting Plan – Clerk Watson:**

Town Clerk Mary Watson approached the Select Board and explained the map showing the new precincts and noted all this information is based on the 2020 federal census numbers for our town. Ms. Watson said nothing has changed as far as our precinct lines, we still have three precincts with no changes to our voting. Our population based on the 2020 federal census is 8,150 down from 8,560 in 2010.

Ms. Oney made a motion to approve the precinct map as presented. Ms. Hull seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

**Police Officer Appointments – Chief Kozloski:**

This was tabled until the next meeting.

**Police Reform – Chief Kozloski:**

Police Chief Stephen Kozloski approached the Select Board and explained one of the biggest elements of the police reform is the dollar amounts. The State is looking at standardizing training across the State. The goal is, under the legislation, that part-time and full-time police officers must all be trained to an equal level. This creates a number of issues and concerns for communities such as ours. Chief Kozloski noted Monson relies heavily on part-time officers to backfill vacation time, sick time, comp. time, holidays, outside details, etc. Monson currently has ten part-time officers. These officers are being paid at a part-time rate as opposed to a full-time officer being paid at a time and a half rate.

Chief Kozloski explained what this training means to the Town of Monson. The legislature decided they would use an officer's last name to basically set up benchmarks on when they must be trained. For the current year, it would be our part-time officers whose last name begins with "A" through "H" which is about half of Monson's part-time staff. These officers must be trained by June 30<sup>th</sup>/July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chief Kozloski said he has been in touch with Rep. Ashe's office as well as Senator Gobi's office regarding some oversight concerns he has on what he perceives to be as an unfunded mandate that this training piece resulted in.

Chief Kozloski explained under the current plan we are looking at about 200 to 250 additional hours of training per officer for what is called the Bridge Program. If the officers do not attend the training by July 1<sup>st</sup> they are no longer certified to be police officers in the State of Massachusetts.

Chief Kozloski noted they are a union shop so if the officers decide to "bridge" they will each have to be compensated. One of the elements of the bridging is a medical exam which they are currently averaging about \$500 per officer for the pre-medical exam. This is then multiplied over the part-time staff. The most recent change was in addition to the 250-hour bridge program, part-time officers must then complete 2400 hours of patrol time. Details don't count. This program allows them to work through

December 2026. If they complete the bridge, but don't complete the 2400 hours, they also evaporate and are no longer certified to be a part-time police officer in the Commonwealth.

Chief Kozloski noted all his part-time officers are currently employed elsewhere and there are currently no offerings for the 250-hours for the A through H employees to complete on evenings or weekends. A portion of this can be on-line, but a significant portion, two to three weeks' worth of time, must be in-person, meaning they would have to take time off from their current jobs to attend this training, or they opt out of being a part-time police officer.

Chief Kozloski noted he has not seen any proposals anywhere that assists towns in backfilling or helping to compensate them for some of these expenses. He also added, as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, there are no part-time options in trainings. Any new person who is attempting to become a police officer must attend a fulltime academy.

Chief Kozloski said his request to appear before the Board tonight was just to let the Board and residents know the police department is going to be rapidly approaching the crossroads on planning how they are going to start staffing their agency with the anticipated loss of a significant number of part-time officers.

Chief Kozloski explained the other challenge they have identified is assuming he sends hypothetical officers to the bridge training and they complete the 2400 hours of training, which Chief Kozloski said he doesn't even know if he has 2400 hours to offer them, if they complete all of the requirements and earn the ultimate golden ticket which is they are now considered a full-time police officer in the state, they then instantly become marketable to other agencies on Monson's dime.

Chief Kozloski explained he will be looking at this continuously with the Finance Department and with the Finance Committee in determining a plan moving forward and determining whether there is buy in from the community and from the Board.

Dr. Smith said he heard the bridge academy is free and wondered what it would cost if we had five part-time officers attend.

Chief Kozloski responded the tuition is free. It would cost the officers part-time pay rate varying from \$18 to low \$20's per hour times 250 hours, plus \$500 for the physical, the bridge academy has a firearms component so include the cost of ammunition estimated to be about \$1,000 per officer, if it can even be purchased, we also have to supply town police vehicles for the training, and the emergency vehicle operations class is very strenuous on the vehicles in regards to the wear and tear on them. Chief Kozloski explained he will be sending the front line or second line vehicles to this class. Chief Kozloski said you are looking at tens of thousands of dollars for just the bridge, and if they don't meet the 2400 hours, that money is gone by 2026 as they will no longer be certified to be an officer. Chief Kozloski noted the cost associated with this was never addressed as part of the police reform legislation that is, at least at this point, going to fall back on the town, depending on the model we choose.

Ms. Oney asked historically how many of his part-time officers would have worked 2400 hours in five years.

Chief Kozloski said he currently has out of his ten part-time officers identified two possibly three that will likely make that 2400-hour mark which leaves him with about five to seven officers if ten decide to



bridge, and explained it appears he has two part-time officers that may have decided to pull the plug by July 1<sup>st</sup> and not go for it.

Ms. Oney asked what we can do about getting the mandates funded.

Chief Kozloski explained he has been very vocal through his Chief's Association and directly to Rep. Ashe and Senator Gobi. With the recent redistricting, Chief Kozloski feels our new Senator Ryan Fattman will be a friend and supporter for us on this. All the aforementioned oppose the new police reform.

Ms. Hull asked how Monson compares to the salaries of other towns.

Chief Kozloski noted the salaries were updated about a contract or two ago, and are now at a very competitive rate.

**Code of Conduct Policy – Administrator Wolowicz:**

Ms. Wolowicz explained several communities have the same Code of Conduct policy and noted the Board has two examples in their packets. The first example is the one most communities use and is pretty general. The second example is one our HR director found on another community's website. Ms. Wolowicz said we could also try to write our own.

Ms. Hull said she loves the idea, and loves keeping it simple with bullet points.

Ms. Oney agreed, and said between the two examples it was so much easier to read.

Dr. Smith he might think of adding "our town employees are expected to follow the same level of conduct" since the residents might not know that.

It was agreed to continue working on this and bring it back before the Board.

**Trick or Treat Hours – Administrator Wolowicz:**

Ms. Wolowicz noted Halloween is on a Sunday this year.

It was agreed to keep the hours the same as they have been historically, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Halloween, Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Wolowicz said we have added something different this year in our town offices and other town buildings at the Highway, Fire, Water/Sewer, Senior Center, Library, Police Dept., etc, for trick or treating, on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. we are inviting the public to come in with their children. We have seventeen unique pumpkins in the hallway in the Town Office Building that have been decorated by each department on display for judging from the public on the best pumpkin by votes from raffle tickets located on the table to put in the cup of the one you feel is best. Also, on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, town employees will dress up for the occasion.

Ms. Oney made a motion to set the trick or treat hours from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Hull seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

**Approve STM Warrant:**

The Special Town Meeting warrant was discussed.

Ms. Oney made a motion to close the Special Town Meeting warrant for the Special Town Meeting scheduled to be held on November 1, 2021. The final version of which has been provided to and reviewed by the Select Board – a copy of which is attached to this motion and will not be read in its entirety. The Special Town Meeting warrant is approved and subject to non-substantive changes and final approval by Town Counsel. Ms. Hull seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

Correspondence was read and completed.

**In Other Business to Come Before the Board:**

- Ms. Hull said she would like an explanation of the ARPA funds, and what is supposed to be happening with it, for anyone who doesn't know what it is.

Ms. Wolowicz explained ARPA is an acronym for the American Rescue Plan. Monson is getting \$1.7 million to start and will also be getting additional funds to bring us up to \$2.5 million total. There are four categories the federal government is saying we need to focus on in using it. They are all related to COVID relief and COVID recovery.

Ms. Wolowicz noted the Board will make the decisions on how the ARPA funds are spent. The funds are for infrastructure, water, sewer, broadband access, and premium pay which she feels is for workers in the community that would require more clarification. Another area is COVID revenue loss which we might not be seeing for a few years out and is for any revenue loss by the community. Ms. Wolowicz said it's very hard to explain and very hard to pinpoint. The ARPA funds don't have to be expended until 2026. The fourth area is COVID recovery for businesses in our community and there will be a lot of options.

Ms. Hull suggested finding people who worked full-time at Woodbine, Adams, whatever, to do something to equally to compensate the people across the board who worked through COVID.

Ms. Hull said on another note, she received a message on Friday from somebody saying, "please help, I'm desperate". It was a person in our community who went through an awful situation. They lost their child and didn't know where they were, and a lot of crazy things happened to this person making the situation terrible. Ms. Hull feels the fact we didn't know this person was in this situation is terrible. The Board of Health had never been called by her social worker or anyone else. Through the Way Finder funds we paid her landlord \$5,300 and no one went there to see what the situation was and to check in on her. Ms. Hull wondered if we could amend that somehow.

Ms. Wolowicz noted she spoke with Ms. Hull over the weekend about this situation and last night she sent out an email to Way Finders asking what their process is, how people get approved, is there any walk through of the property, and she hasn't heard back yet.

- Ms. Oney said she drafted a letter, and the Board had a copy of it before them addressed to Governor Baker, Paula Carey who is the Chief Justice of the Mass. Trial Court, and Commissioner Carol Gladstone who is the head of the Division of Capital Asset Management. Ms. Oney explained the letter which noted the Board has concerns about the status of the Roderick J. Ireland Courthouse in Springfield that has been neglected for years and we have a number of residents who are either employed there, have jury duty, or do business there. Ms. Oney added she feels it's time to build a new courthouse.

Ms. Hull said she would like to sign the letter for the courthouse and get the people the help they need, but it came about at the same time we have our own mold issue going on at Holistic where we haven't received any information from them on the inspection they did. Ms. Hull said she would be more willing to sign a letter in support of the people in the Holistic building instead as they could use our help a little bit more and feels the people in the courthouse will be okay.

Ms. Oney said there is an investigation going on at Holistic and at least its being looked into that we need to stay on top of, and thinks they are very different things. Holistic is the subject of a lot of scrutiny through the state government and the Cannabis Commission. Whereas the courthouse is an on-going issue and unless people press, nothing is going to happen, and it has been virtually going on for forty years.

Dr. Smith felt the two issues are mutually exclusive and both deserve attention. Dr. Smith said the Cannabis Control Commission has already started the investigation and he would like to see where that ended up, and he has no problem supporting the employees who have to work there in those conditions. It's more the courthouse is an on-going issue, and he would put his name on this letter now, and if down the road we find we need to do something to support the residents who are working at Holistic needing support then would do that as well.

Ms. Wolowicz read the email she received from the Cannabis Control Commission into the record noting the inspection was conducted as planned and the Board of Health representatives attended. Several Holistic employees were interviewed during the inspection and the enforcement staff are currently assessing the next steps. Since identifying health hazards like mold falls within the Board of Health expertise, the enforcement staff hopes to connect with the Board of Health representatives to inform them of their assessment of the severity of the mold observed during the inspections. The enforcement staff plans to reach out to the Board of Health for their additional insight.

Ms. Hull said it seems strange to her the Cannabis Control Commission did a virtual inspection and not an in-person inspection because they didn't feel safe going in there, and yet the facility wasn't shut down.

Ms. Oney made a motion the Board accept this letter and send it to Baker, Carey, and Gladstone. Ms. Hull seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Oney – aye, Dr. Smith – aye, Ms. Hull – nay.

- Ms. Wolowicz said there has been a lot of talk about Senator Gobi and her not being here any longer and read the email she received from Senator Gobi this morning into the record, as attached.

Dr. Smith thanked Senator Gobi for all she has done for Monson and for being very supportive.

- Ms. Wolowicz said the Highway garage was painted two weekends ago. Highway Surveyor Ben Murphy had looked at quotes to have it painted and it came in at \$25,000. They agreed that was a lot of money and Ms. Wolowicz said she is familiar with Sherriff Cocchi's department doing community projects for all the communities he represents in Hampden County, and she reached out to him. The Sherriff came out and had discussions with Mr. Murphy and checked out the project in June or July and agreed to take on the project. The Town of Monson had to pressure wash the building, rent the scissor lift, and purchase the paint and paint supplies for a total cost of \$2,700 saving \$22,274.

Mr. Murphy is now working on having a sign made by the Sherriff's department as well.

At 9:17 p.m., Ms. Oney made a motion to adjourn from open session. Ms. Hull seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

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Mary K. Hull, Clerk